



DEFIANT
9
\$2.75
\$3.65 CANADA

**SPECIAL
40-PAGE
ISSUE!**

WARRIORS OF PLASM



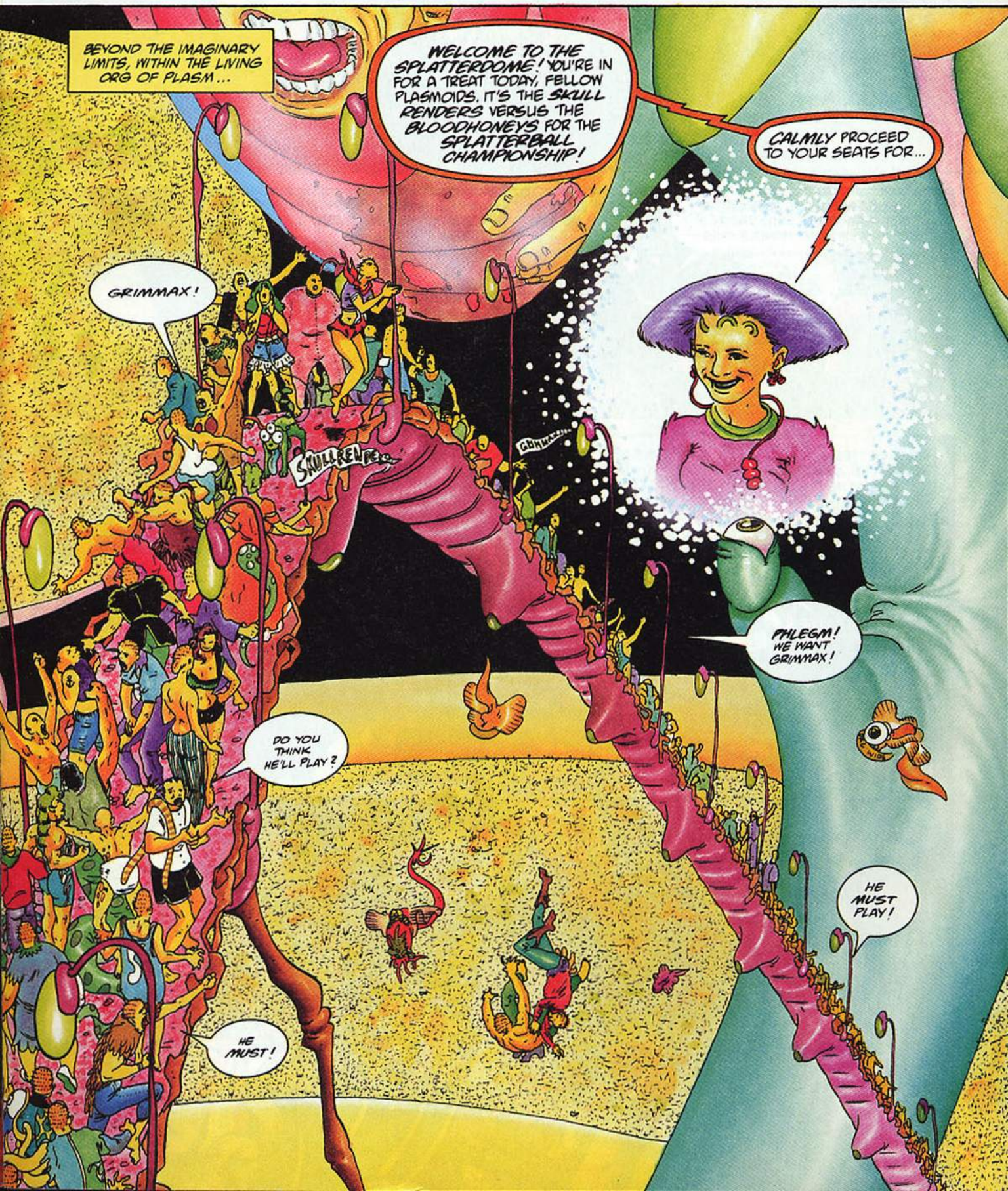
THE BIG GAME

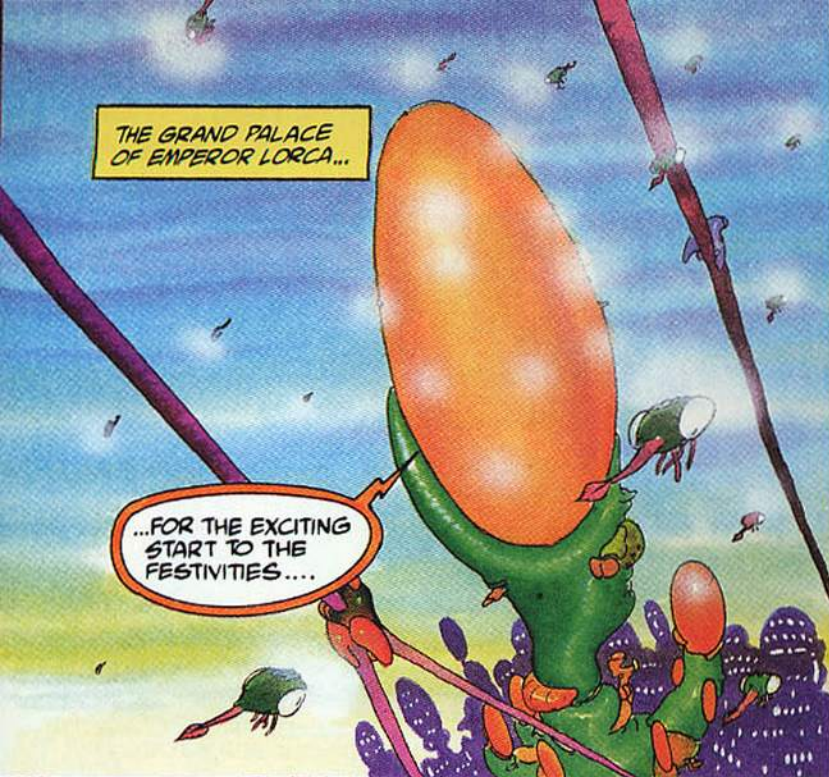
WRITTEN, DRAWN, AND INKED BY
DAVID LAPHAM

PAINTED BY
OCLAIR

LETTERED BY
CLEM ROBINS

EDITED BY
DEBORAH PURCELL





THE GRAND PALACE
OF EMPEROR LORCA...

...FOR THE EXCITING
START TO THE
FESTIVITIES....



ARE YOUR
FORCES PREPARED,
SVERACEEN?

I AM PREPARED. IF
THE PEOPLE RIOT,
THE GORE WILL
RUN THICK.



YOU ARE A FOOL, LORCA, TO
RISK EVERYTHING LIKE *THIS*! IF
YOU HAD LET *ME* HANDLE THIS--

I'M LETTING YOU HANDLE IT *NOW*! DON'T BICKER
WITH ME. NOT WHEN THINGS ARE SO CLOSE TO THE
EDGE.

GRIMMAX
WILL PLAY.



YOU'D BETTER HOPE SO.
THE PEOPLE *WORSHIP*
THIS MAN. IF HE DOES NOT
PLAY, IT'S CIVIL WAR.

AND HAVE YOU THOUGHT
ABOUT WHICH SIDE YOUR
PRECIOUS EARTHLINGS
WILL SUPPORT?

LET ME TAKE
CARE OF THEM
NOW, BEFORE--

NO!



THEY ARE TOO POWERFUL. WATCH
THEM CLOSELY, BUT DON'T ACT UNTIL
WE RUN OUT OF OPTIONS.

IF YOU FAIL,
WE *WON'T* GET
A SECOND
CHANCE.



I WON'T
NEED ONE.

MY FORCES
WILL BE READY.

IT WON'T
MATTER.

GRIMMAX WILL
PLAY. THINGS WILL
BE ALL RIGHT.

ELSEWHERE, WITHIN THE PALACE...

IF GRIMMAX DOESN'T
PLAY, THESE PEOPLE ARE
GONNA FREAK!

SOMEBODY'D
BETTER KNOCK SOME
SENSE INTO THAT
GUY.

WHAT'S GOTTEN
INTO YOU, SHOOTER?

I SAY WE PUT A
STOP TO THIS MADNESS!



SKULLRENDERS' LOCKER ROOM
IN THE GRAND SPLATTERDOME...

YOU GAVE US
QUITE A SCARE THERE,
GRIMMAX.

GOOD SHOW,
MAN! KEEP 'EM
GUESSING.

ALL RIGHT,
RENDERS,
LISTEN UP!

I'VE BEEN AT THIS
GAME A LONG TIME, BEEN
THROUGH THE HIGHS AND
THE LOWS. AS YOUR FIELD
GENERAL, IT'S MY JOB TO
PREPARE YOU FOR ANY
EVENTUALITY. THE SLIGHTEST
MISTAKE AND WE COULD ALL
BE OFF TO THE MULCH PITS!

WHEN GRIMMAX DISAPPEARED
AND THINGS LOOKED BLEAK,
YOU ALL WORKED HARD TO
MAKE THE BEST OF IT.

WE DRILLED AND PLANNED
AND PRACTICED HARD FOR A
TOUGH WAR WITH THE
DANGEROUS BLOOD-
HONEYS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW
I'M PROUD OF HOW
HARD YOU'VE WORKED...

...BUT NOW YOU CAN FORGET
ALL THAT USELESS STUFF!

GRIMMAX
IS BACK!

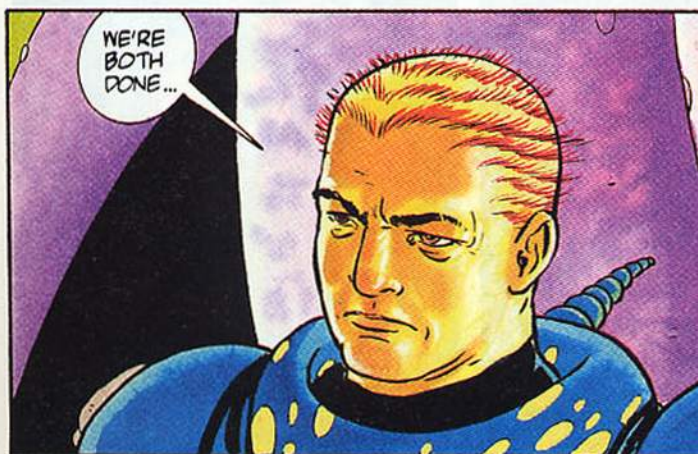
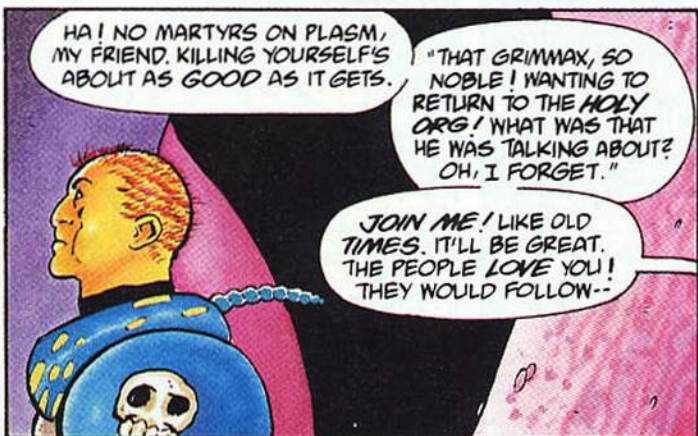
GAME
OVER!

LET'S GO
COLLECT
ANOTHER
CHAMPION-
SHIP!

ALL
RIGHT!

GO,
TEAM!

PSST!



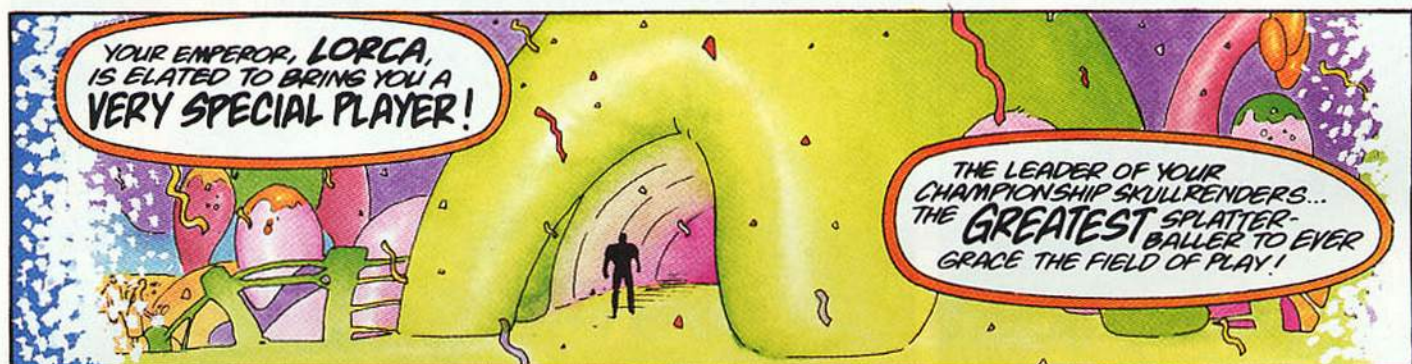






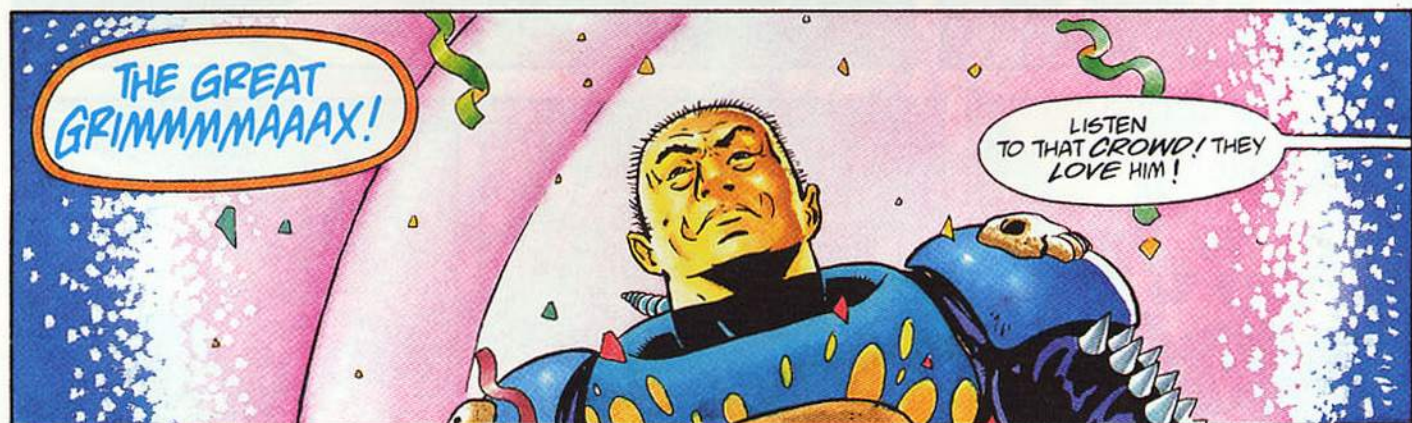
THIS IS IT,
PLASMOIDS--

--THE MOMENT YOU'VE
ALL BEEN WAITING FOR!



YOUR EMPEROR, LORCA,
IS ELATED TO BRING YOU A
VERY SPECIAL PLAYER!

THE LEADER OF YOUR
CHAMPIONSHIP SKULLRENDERS...
THE **GREATEST** SPLATTER-
BALLER TO EVER
GRACE THE FIELD OF PLAY!



THE GREAT
GRIMMMMAAX!

LISTEN
TO THAT CROWD! THEY
LOVE HIM!



THE CROWD? THE
WHOLE ORG SEEMS
TO BE SHAKING.

JUST LIKE THAT,
EVERYTHING IS
ALL OVER.

I TOLD YOU, MAN,
THESE PEOPLE ARE
LIKE ROBOTS.

HE'S
GOING TO
PLAY.

DON'T
JUDGE TOO
HARSHLY,
GLORY.

I'M NOT. I JUST
FEEL SO HELPLESS.
THAT POOR MAN, ALL
ALONE, HE MUST
FEEL SO TRAPPED.

GLORY...
WE HAVE...
TO... HAVE
TO HELP
HIM....

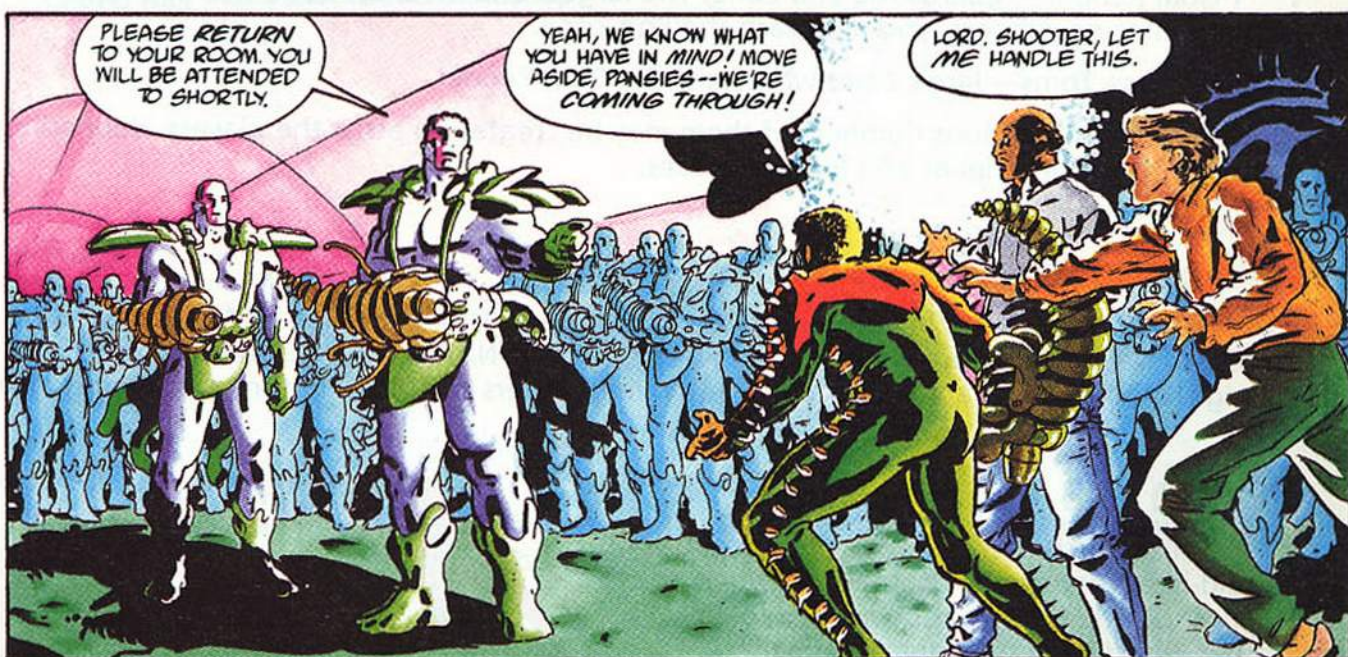
MARTIN?

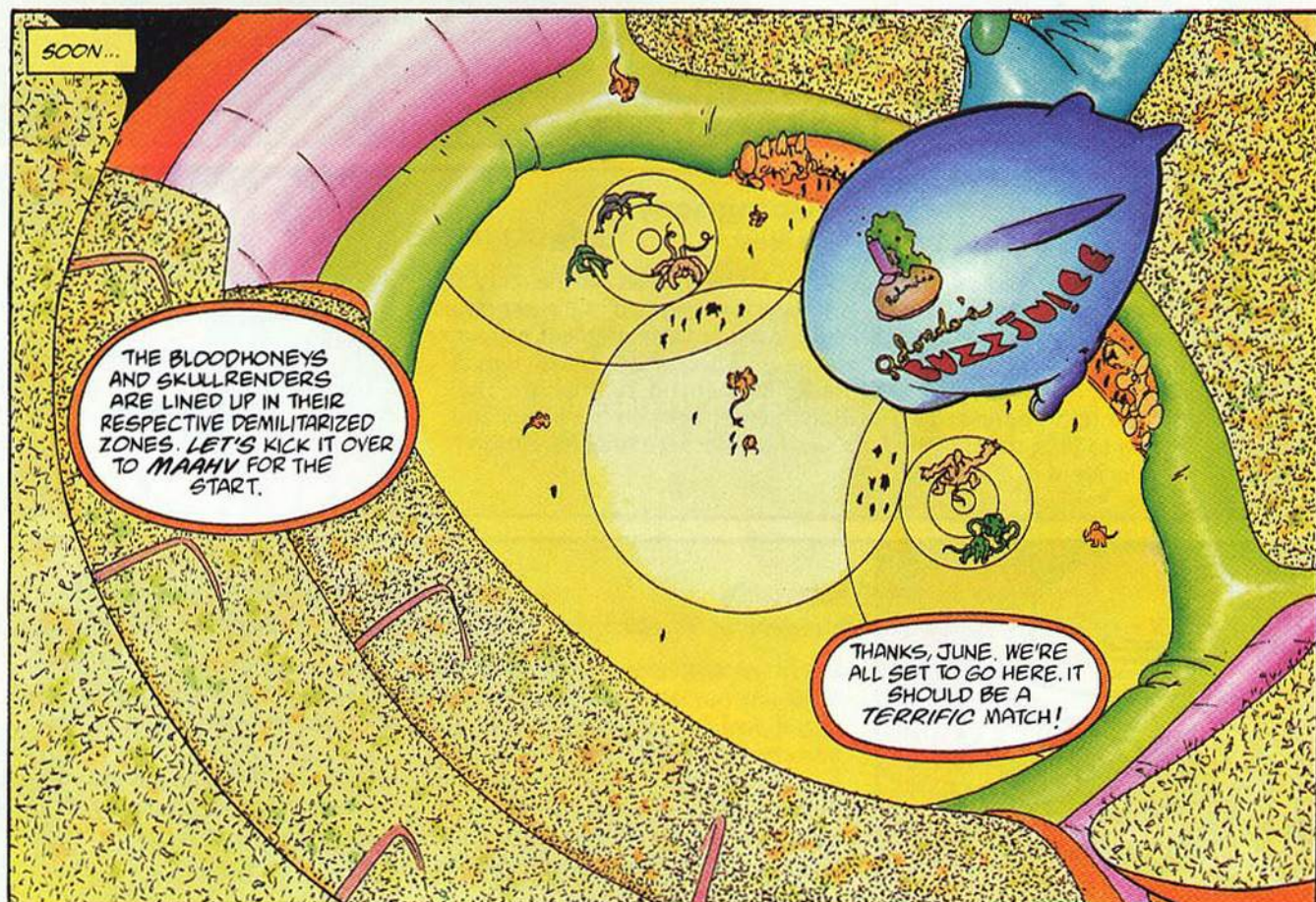


LISTEN, WHILE YOU GUYS ARE
OFF IN THE OZONE PHILOSOPHIZING,
HAS ANYONE NOTICED AN ENORMOUS
MILITARY BUILDUP?

IF WE DON'T DECIDE TO
DO SOMETHING SOON,
THEY'RE GONNA DECIDE
FOR US!

THE WAY I SEE
IT, WE WERE GIVEN
THESE POWERS, SO
LET'S USE 'EM!

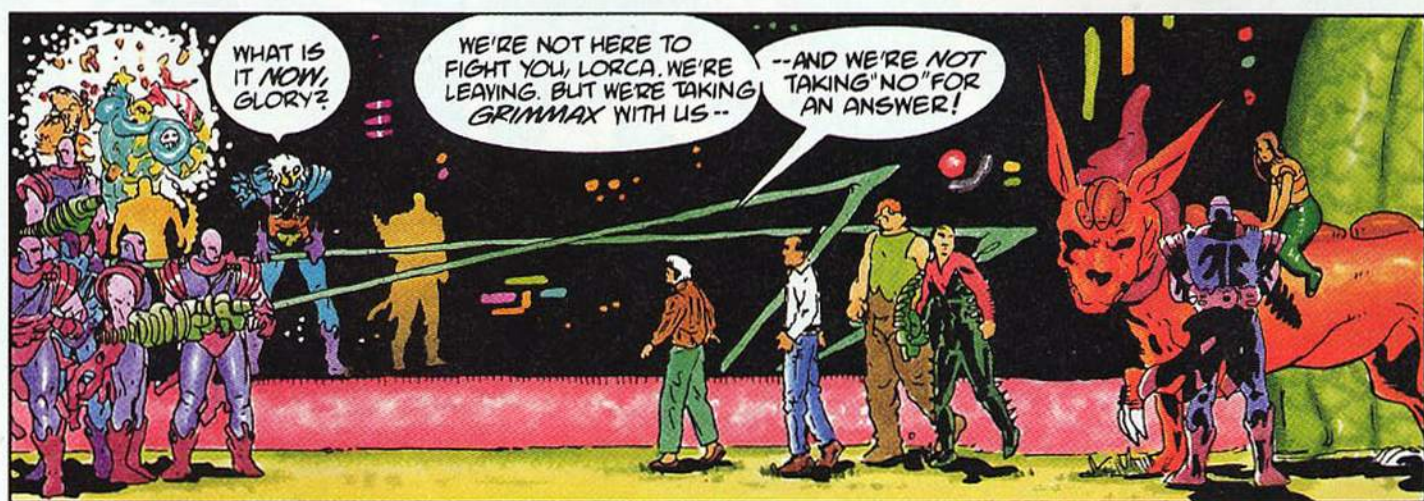


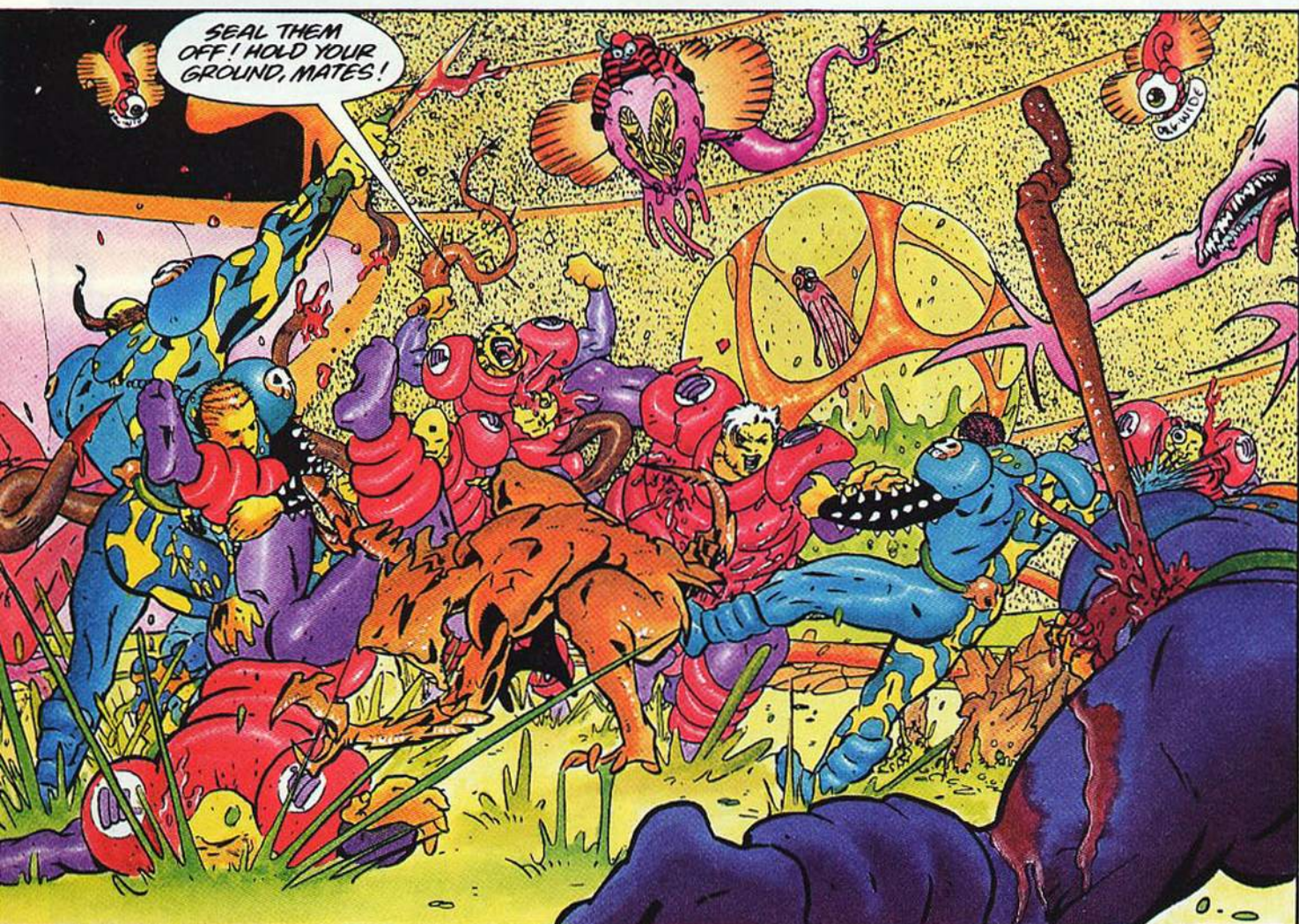




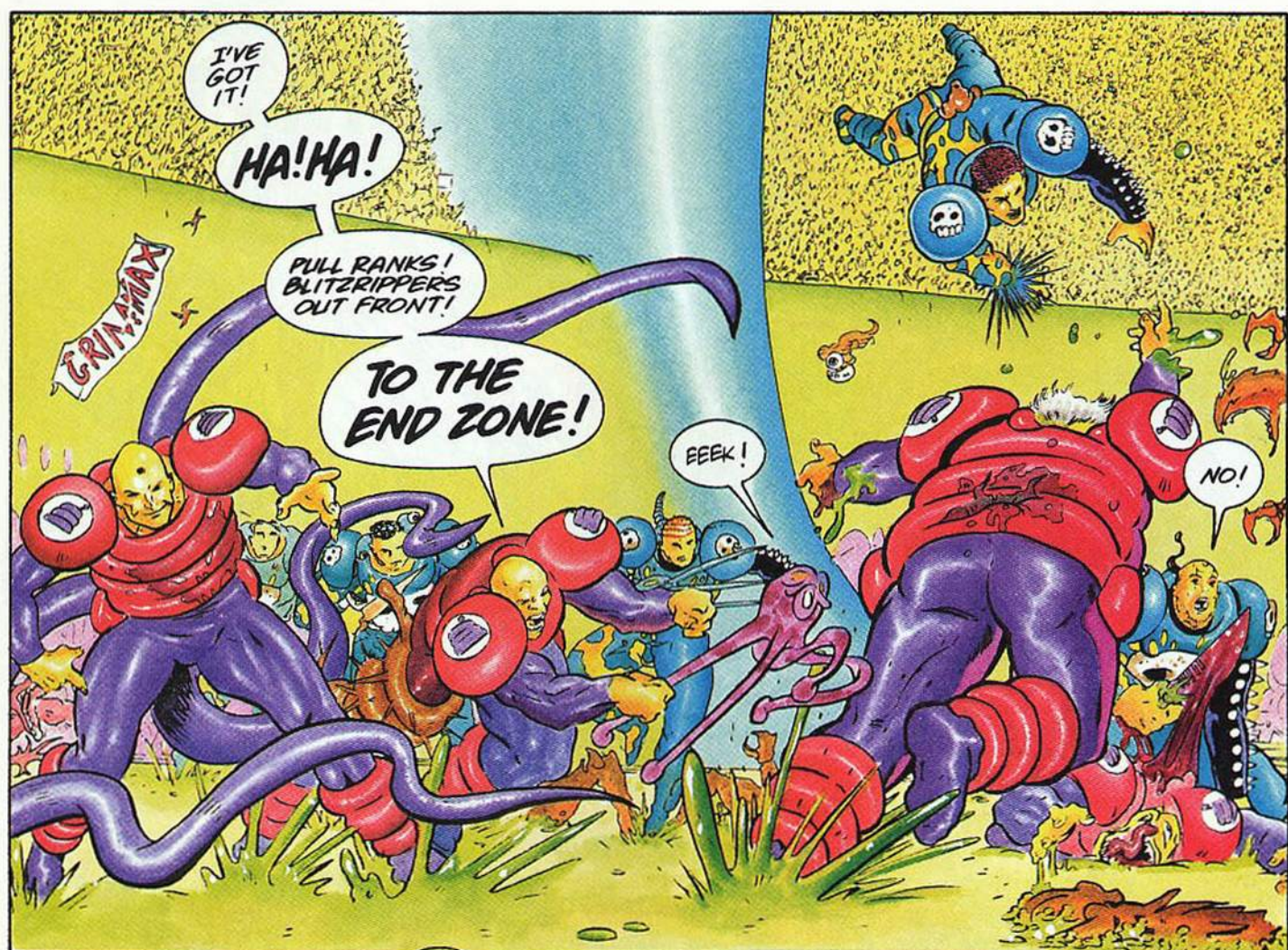


BACK AT THE PALACE...













THE PALACE...

ZOMS.

LEAVE US.



SOON...

...BLOODHONEY'S ARE JUST KILLING THE 'RENDERS...THE CROWD'S NOT LIKING THIS AT ALL....

SHE WON'T AGREE.

PLEASE...TRY... MY...IT'S THE RIGHT THING...TO DO.



BUT THE PEOPLE WILL--

JUST DO IT! LUNNNIN...

GLORY...THE ORG...SCREAMING AT ME...I'M...I'M GOING TO LOSE CONTROL OF HIM.

HOLD ON. JUST A LITTLE LONGER.



WHAT IS IT, LORCA?

BE QUICK. THINGS ARE GETTING OUT OF HAND HERE!

STAND DOWN YOUR FORCES, SUERACEEN!

I'M ALLOWING THE EARTH-LINGS TO TAKE GRIMMAX!



ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?

CALM DOWN. I HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL.

YOU THINK SO? YOU ARE MAD. THESE EARTH-LINGS HAVE IRREPARABLY CLOUDED YOUR JUDGMENT!

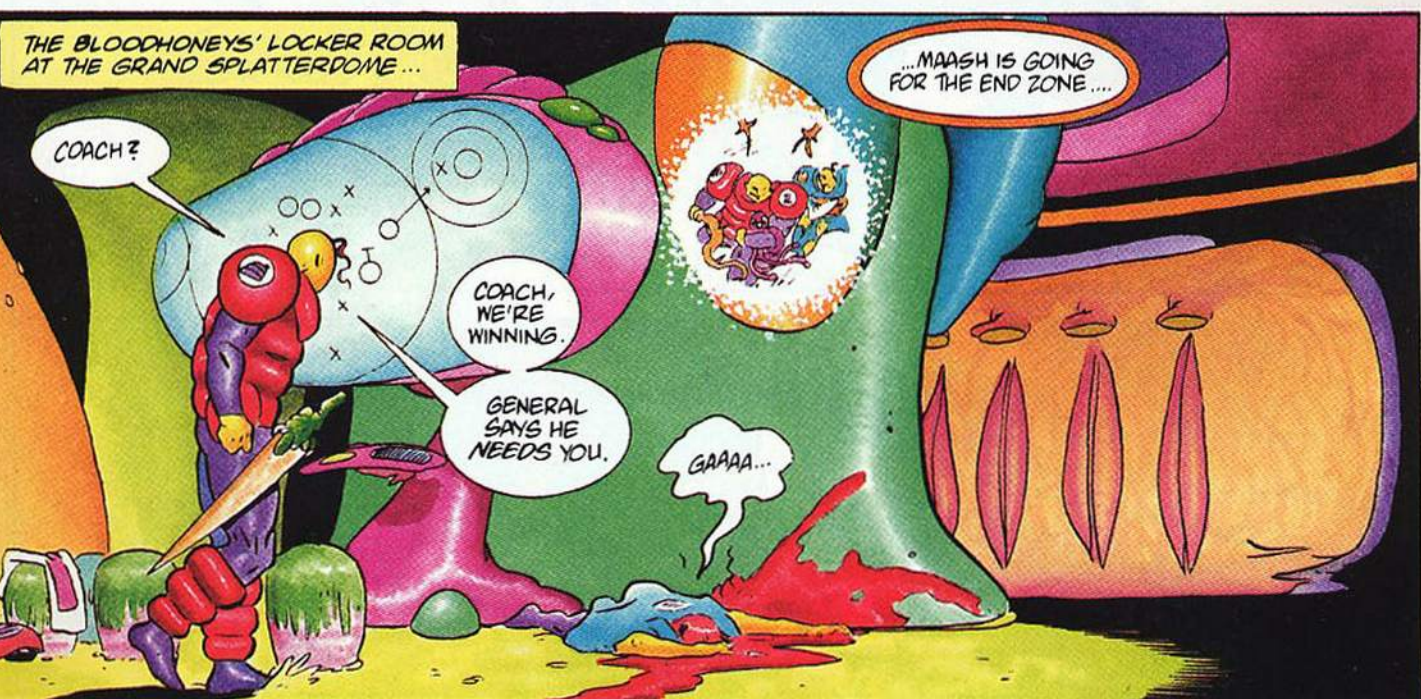
I AM YOUR EMPEROR. DO AS I SAY!

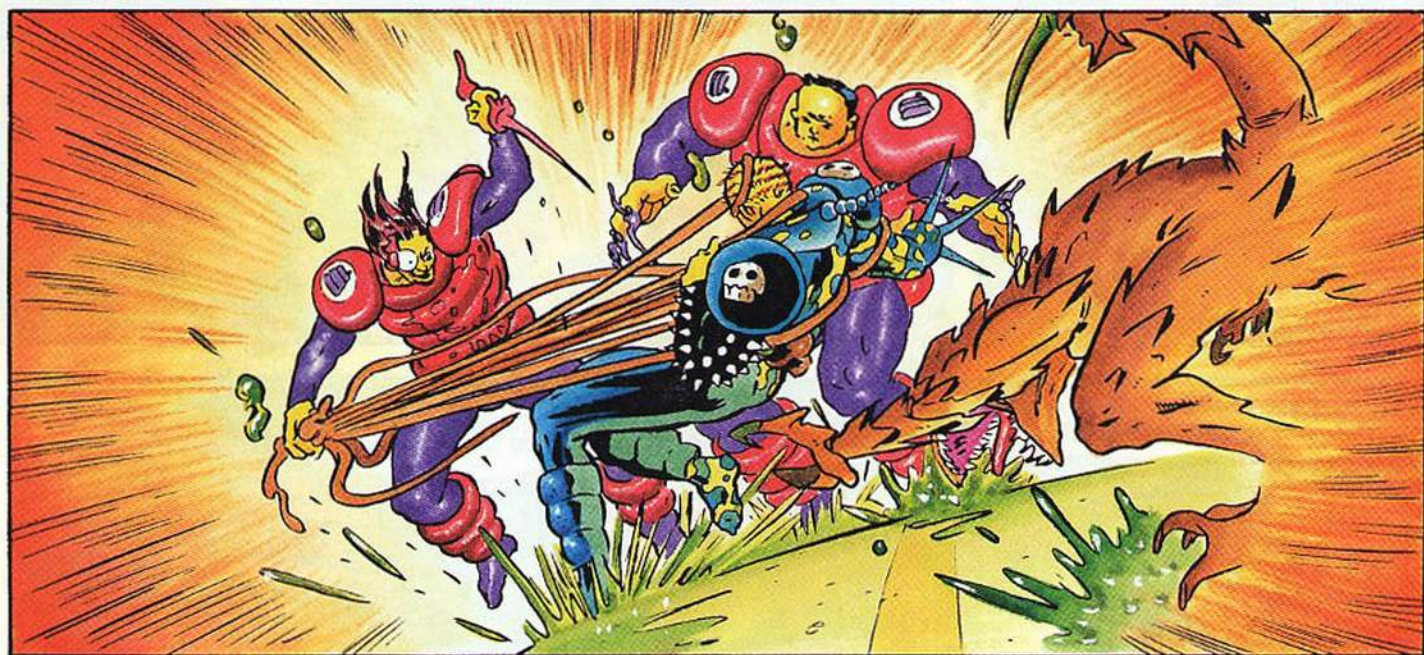


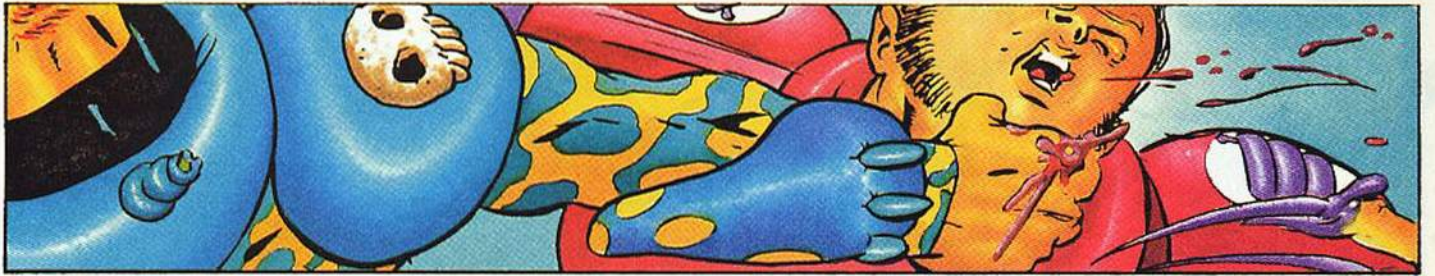
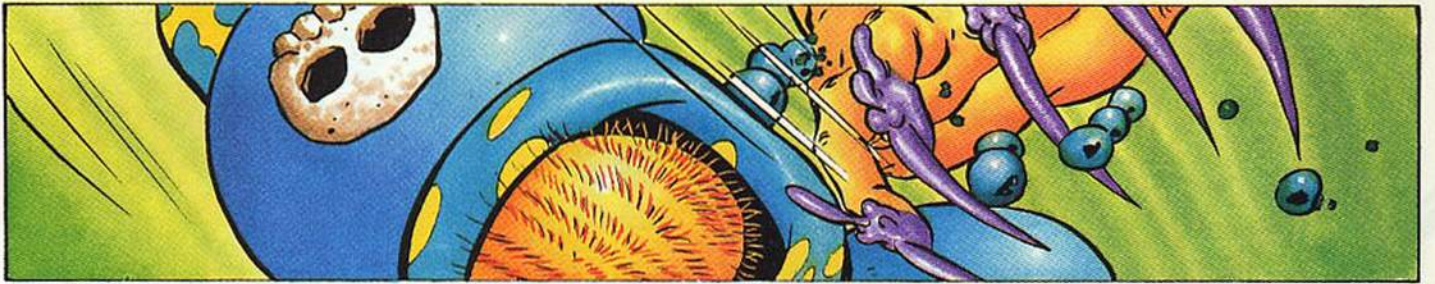
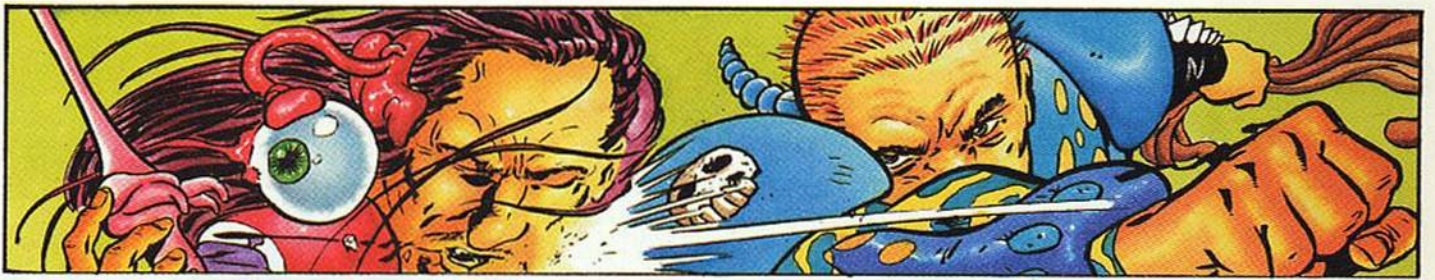
NO.

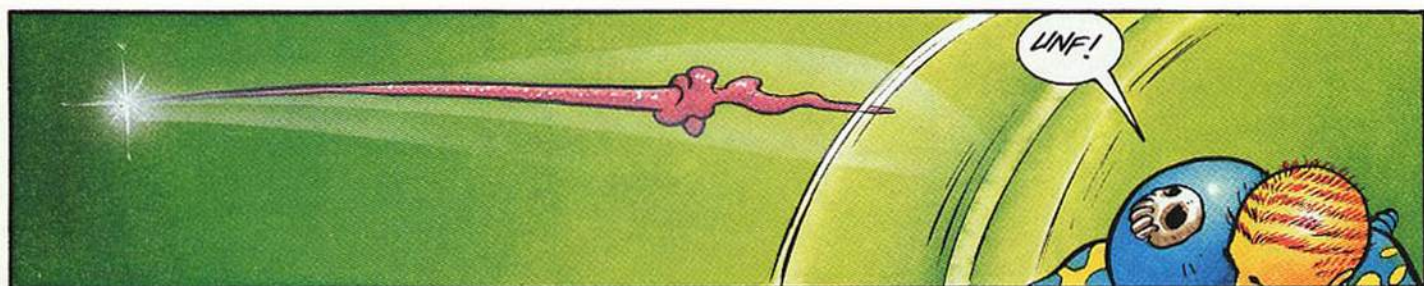
YOU PUT ME IN CHARGE OF THIS AFFAIR. IF GRIMMAX DOES NOT PERFORM, I WILL SLIT HIM AND PARADE HIS BODY THROUGH THE STREETS.

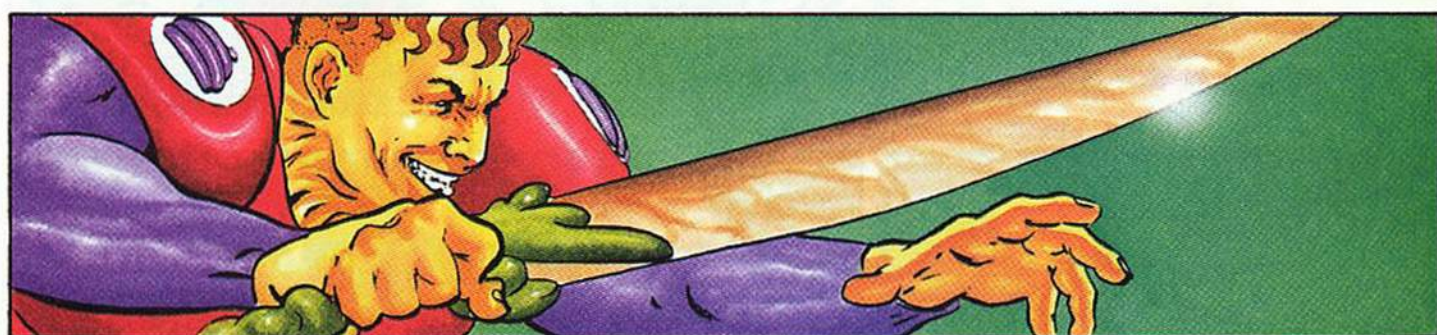
I DON'T KNOW WHAT INSIDIOUS CONTROL THESE EARTH-LINGS HAVE OVER YOU, BUT I WILL MAKE CERTAIN THEY NEVER INTERFERE WITH US AGAIN!

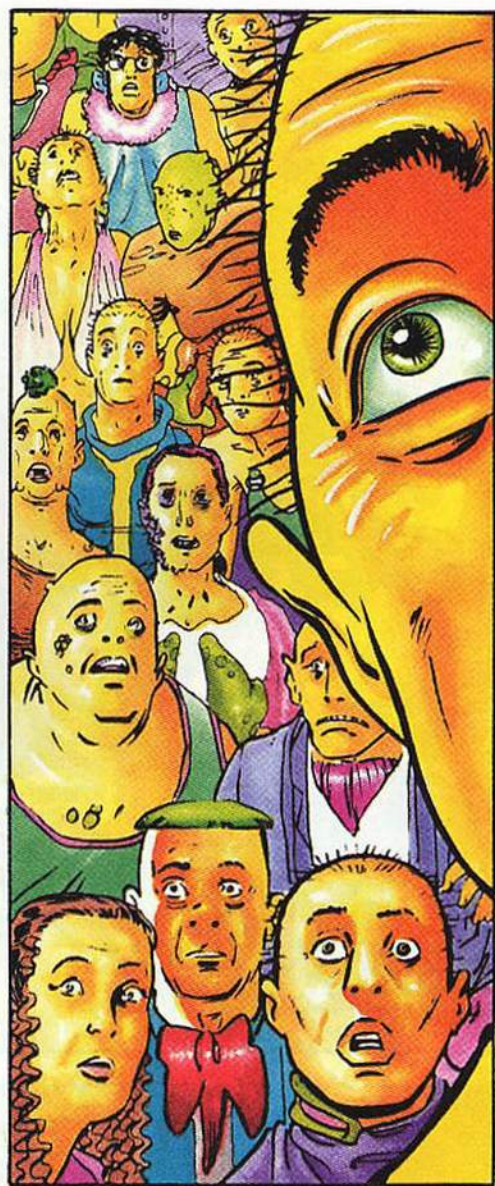


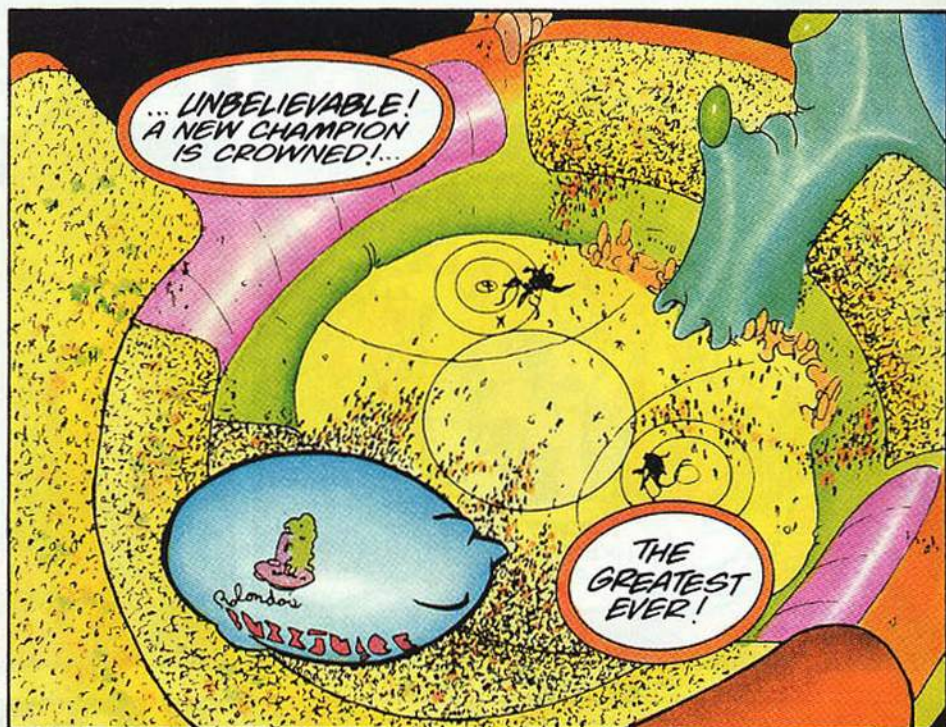


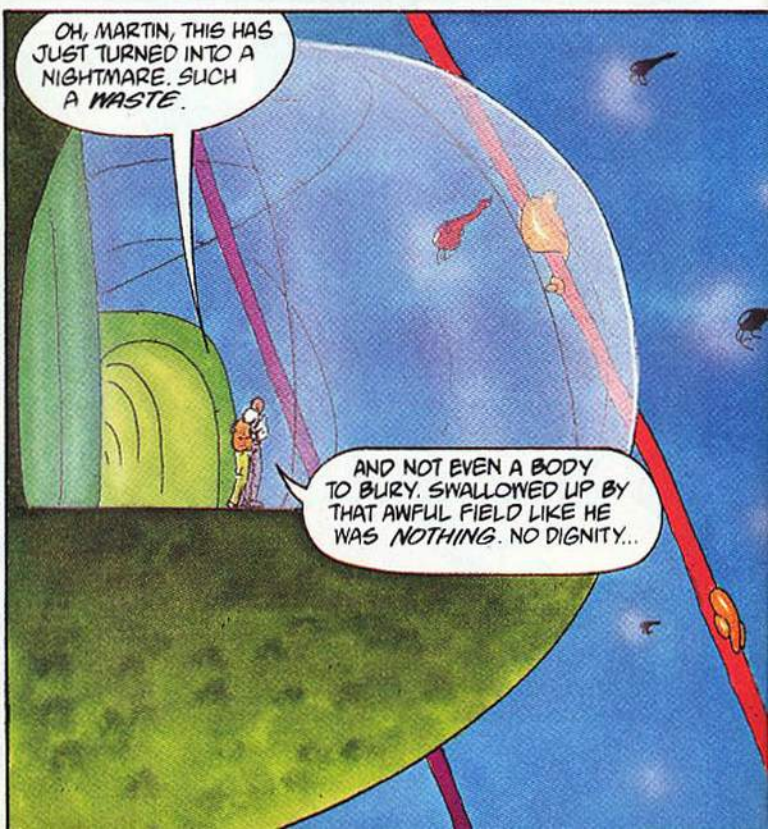












ACROSS THE THIN VEIL OF
REALITY, NEW YORK CITY...

DONT
WALK

